

SECRETARY OF LABOR
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20210

JAN 14 2010

Mr. Tarun Dewan
Secretary
Sports Goods Export Promotion Council
1E/6, Ram Tirth Nagar
New Delhi 110 055 (INDIA)

5367
5/2/16
J

Dear Mr. Dewan:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the *Department of Labor's (DOL) List of Goods Produced by Forced Labor or Child Labor*, published as required under the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (TVPRA).

As you are aware, the Department of Labor (DOL) was mandated by the U.S. Congress under the TVPRA to develop and make available to the public a country-specific list of goods that the Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) has reason to believe are produced by forced labor or child labor in violation of international standards. Government, industry, and third-party efforts to combat child labor or forced labor were taken into consideration in the development of this list. However, in determining whether to include a good and country on the list, ILAB considers whether such efforts were effective in significantly reducing, if not eliminating child labor or forced labor in the production of the good. In the case of child labor in the soccer ball industry of India, we were not able to confirm the significant reduction or elimination of the problem.

Your letter provides detailed information on your business association's response to DOL's findings of child labor in the production of soccer balls. We assure you that this information will be carefully reviewed as part of DOL's ongoing research process. We plan to update the TVPRA list periodically, and we will consider your letter in making our determinations. We welcome any additional reports, statistics, or other documentation from your organization. Please note that your letter will become part of the public record as an official submission under the TVPRA list maintenance process. For more information on this process, please see DOL's procedural guidelines at: <http://www.dol.gov/federalregister/PdfDisplay.aspx?DocId=20376>.

DOL views the release of the TVPRA list as an opportunity to raise awareness on child labor and forced labor worldwide and to promote efforts to eliminate such practices. We congratulate the soccer ball manufacturers based in India on forming the Sports Goods Foundation to combat child labor in the Sporting Goods Industry.

Since 2001, USDOL has funded projects to combat child labor in India. USDOL is currently funding a 42-month, USD 6.85 million project to combat child labor, implemented by the International Labor Organization's International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (ILO-IPEC). The project, known as *The Convergence Model*

TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY

Project, seeks to withdraw and prevent over 19,000 working and at-risk children from exploitive labor in India by providing them with educational and other services. This project also focuses on enhancing state-level capacities to coordinate action against child labor and supporting convergence interventions at the district level. We encourage the Sports Goods Export Promotion Council (SGEPC) to contact the ILO-IPEC project director to learn about the activities carried out by the project and explore potential means of collaboration. Enclosed please find a project summary for *The Convergence Model Project*.

Elimination of forced labor and child labor represents a global challenge. Indeed, we face these problems in our own country. International cooperation is essential to finding effective and lasting solutions. We urge the SGEPC to use all the tools at your disposal to ensure that the production of soccer balls in India is free of child labor and to collaborate with the Indian government and organizations that work on child labor issues. In that spirit, we look forward to learning more about the efforts made by SGEPC to ensure that the soccer ball sector is free of child labor and that the basic rights of all workers are protected.

Sincerely,



HILDA L. SOLIS
Secretary of Labor

Enclosure

5